

1        1. (Amended) A method of increasing the power handling  
2        capability of a power line, the method comprising:  
3                providing a conductor configured to transmit energy intermediate  
4                plural locations;  
5                supporting the conductor at a plurality of positions intermediate  
6                the locations, the supporting at a plurality of positions defining a  
7                plurality of spans within the conductor;  
8                creating a model of the conductor following the supporting step;  
9                identifying a critical span within the modelled conductor;  
10               altering the modelled conductor responsive to the identifying step;  
11               and  
12               analyzing the modelled conductor following the altering step.

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14        2. (Amended) The method according to claim 1 further  
15        comprising analyzing the modelled conductor at an increased operating  
16        condition and the identifying [being] step is responsive to the analyzing  
17        the modelled conductor at the increased operating condition.

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19        4. (Amended) The method according to claim 3 wherein the  
20        altering [the conductor] step includes at least one of removing a portion  
21        of the modelled conductor and adjusting the positioning of one of the  
22        clamps [within] relative to the modelled conductor.

1           5. (Amended) The method according to claim 1 further  
2 comprising identifying another critical span following the analyzing step.

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4           6. (Amended) The method according to claim 1 further  
5 comprising [repeating the altering and analyzing following the identifying  
6 the another critical span] altering the conductor following the analyzing  
7 step.

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9           7. (Amended) The method according to claim [1 further  
10 comprising optimizing including repeating the altering and the  
11 analyzing] 6 wherein the altering the conductor step comprises at least  
12 one of removing a portion of the conductor and adjusting the  
13 positioning of at least one clamp coupled with the conductor.

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15           8. (Amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein the  
16 analyzing step comprises using a digital computer.

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18           10. (Amended) The method according to claim 9 further  
19 comprising:

20                 creating a model of the conductor;  
21                 analyzing the modelled conductor at an increased operating  
22 condition; and

23                 identifying a critical span responsive to the analyzing step, wherein  
24 the altering step is responsive to the identifying step.

1           11. (Amended) The method according to claim 9 further  
2 comprising:

3                 [analyzing the modelled conductor following the altering]  
4                 creating a model of the conductor; and  
5                 altering the modelled conductor, wherein the altering the conductor  
6                 step is responsive to the altering the modelled conductor step.

7  
8           12. (Amended) The method according to claim 11 further  
9 comprising:

10                 identifying a critical span following the [analyzing] altering the  
11                 modelled conductor step; and  
12                 repeating the altering the modelled conductor step responsive to  
13                 the identifying step.

14  
15           13. (Amended) The method according to claim 11 further  
16 comprising optimizing steps including repeating the altering the modelled  
17                 conductor step and the analyzing step.

1           14. (Amended) A method of increasing the power handling  
2           capability of a power line, the method comprising:

3           providing a conductor configured to transmit energy intermediate  
4           plural locations;

5           creating a model of the conductor;

6           first analyzing the modelled conductor at an increased operating  
7           condition following the creating step;

8           identifying a critical span following the first analyzing step;

9           altering the modelled conductor responsive to the identifying step;

10          and

11          second analyzing the modelled conductor following the altering  
12          step.

14         15. (Amended) The method according to claim 14 wherein the  
15          first analyzing step comprises analyzing the modelled conductor at a  
16          maximum operating temperature.

18         16. (Amended) The method according to claim 14 wherein the  
19          first and second [analyzings] analyzing steps individually comprise using  
20          a digital computer.

1           17. (Amended) The method according to claim 14 further  
2 comprising [supporting the conductor using a plurality of clamps] altering  
3 the conductor following the first analyzing step and the second analyzing  
4 step.

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6           18. (Amended) The method according to claim 17 wherein the  
7 altering step includes at least one of removing a portion of the  
8 modelled conductor and adjusting the positioning of [one of the clamps  
9 within] at least one clamp coupled with the modelled conductor.

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11          19. (Amended) The method according to claim 14 further  
12 comprising:

13           identifying another critical span following the second [modelling]  
14 analyzing step; and

15           [repeating the altering and modelling following the analyzing  
16 another critical span] altering the modelled conductor following the  
17 identifying the another critical span.

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19          20. (Amended) The method according to claim 14 further  
20 comprising optimizing steps including repeating the altering step and the  
21 second analyzing step.